

Paul, A Father-Like Shepherd

2 Corinthians 12:11-13:14

Key Verse: 12:15a

“So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well.”

* EVERYTHING WE DO IS FOR YOUR STRENGTHENING (12:11-21)

1. What was Paul's motive in defending himself to the Corinthians? (12:11) Why should they have commended Paul as an apostle? (12:12) How often is the phrase "a burden to you" repeated? (12:13,14,16) What criticism of Paul did this address? (12:16-18)

2. What was Paul's purpose in visiting them this third time? (12:14a) How did he describe the relationship between himself and the Corinthians? (12:14b) How did he express his father's heart for them? (12:15) How did Paul's love for them reflect the love of God for sinners? (Jn3:16) What can we learn from this?

3. How did Paul clarify why he was defending himself to them? (12:19) How would his defending himself strengthen them? As he planned to visit them this third time, what were Paul's concerns? (12:20-21) How did Paul express his holy love for them here? What can we learn from him about how to strengthen others?

* FINAL WARNINGS AND BLESSINGS (13:1-14)

4. What did Paul plan to do when he arrived in Corinth, and on what basis? (13:1-2) How did he plan to deal with the stubbornly unrepentant? (13:3) In helping the Corinthians, how did Paul imitate Jesus who died and rose again? (13:4)

5. Read 13:5-6. How did Paul warn them to get ready spiritually for his arrival? What was his prayer and hope for them? (13:7-9) Why did Paul write such a strong letter, and how did he plan to use his God-given authority? (13:10)

6. What were his final instructions and greetings? (13:11-13) How did he bless them? (13:14)